

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 10, 2004. Claims 1-74 are now pending, with Claims 1, 9, 16, 17, 73, and 74 in independent form. Claims 17-74 have been added by this amendment to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. In particular, independent Claims 73 and 74 have been added to claim the text media block and meta data searching capabilities of the invention. Claims 1, 9, and 16, which are independent claims, have been amended to specify that each media block begins with a whole frame, as discussed in more detail below. Claims 3-6 and 11-13 have been amended to depend directly from their corresponding independent claim, instead of an intermediate dependent claim, and consequently, the scope of these claims has been broadened. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8-10, 13, 15, and 16 have also been amended as to matters of form that do not narrow the scope of these claims. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action includes an objection to the declaration for allegedly not including a post office address required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.33(a). However, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.33(a), a correspondence address was included on page 3 of the executed declaration filed with the application. Although the correspondence address identified in the declaration has since changed to the address shown at the end of this amendment, a copy of such declaration is enclosed herewith. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the declaration as filed fulfills the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.33(a), and requests that this objection be withdrawn.

The drawings were objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(a)(1). Enclosed herewith are formal drawings that are respectfully submitted to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(a)(1). Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 14, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,930,493 (Ottesen et al.). Claims 8 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ottesen et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,899,582 (DuLac). Claim 13 has been rejected under Section 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Ottesen et al.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1, 9, and 16, newly added independent Claim 17, and the dependent claims are patentably distinct from the proposed combination of the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires a system for archiving time sequenced media content from a media signal. The system includes a network, a data storage device, and a capture server. The data storage device is operatively connected to the network and is adapted to store blocks of media data in an addressable and retrievable manner. The capture server is adapted to receive the media signal and is operatively connected to the network thereby being able to write blocks of media data to the data storage device in an addressable and retrievable manner.

The capture server includes an encoder, a converter, a storage manager, and a storing processor. The encoder digitizes the media signal into a time-sequence of digital frames and a corresponding audio component. The converter converts the time-sequence of digital frames into one or more sequential media blocks, each of the sequential media blocks including data representing a consecutive number of digital frames and the corresponding audio components. Each media block begins with a whole frame. The storage manager determines an address for each of the sequential media blocks. The storing processor causes storage of the sequential media blocks by the data storage device based upon the address determined by the storage manager.

A notable feature of Claim 1 is that each media block begins with a whole frame. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at least at page 21, line 17 to page 22, line 4, which is described with reference to Figure 2. This portion of the specification states, in part, that, "... the media content block comprises an integral number of frames. Moreover, the frames, which may be full frames and/or delta frames are arranged such that each media content block is a viewable unit - in other words, all of the frames in the media content block may be viewed without reference to data regarding other frames." Page 21, line 22 to page 23, line 4. "A full frame is a complete frame of the media content that may be displayed without reference to data from other frames. Delta frames represent only the changes or 'delta's' in media content from the previous frame." Page 22, lines 13-17, as amended.

As shown in FIG. 2, each media block 200, 210, and 220 begins with a whole frame. It should be noted, however, that the term, "whole frame" is intended to refer to either a whole full frame or a whole delta frame, as opposed to a partial full frame or a partial delta frame. In other words, the media blocks do not begin with a partial full frame or a partial delta frame, as might be natural, absent the present invention, for instance, when displaying video according to United States television standards which display video at 29.97 frames per second. It might also be natural to begin a media block with a partial full frame or a partial delta frame, for instance, when using MPEG encoding, which does not require alignment of whole frames with respect to time. By beginning each media block with a whole frame, whether a full frame or a delta frame, each media block may be accessed independently of a preceding media block, and access to a video segment is simplified. To elaborate, if a media block begins with a partial frame, another media block must be accessed in order to retrieve the other portion of the partial frame, thereby

decreasing efficiency. (It is to be understood, of course, that the scope of Claim 1 is not limited to the details of this embodiment, which is referred to only for purposes of illustration.)

Ottesen et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to storing and distributing multimedia programming. According to Ottesen et al. at column 9, lines 26-35, which is described with reference to figures 3-5,

“an analog video signal, typically comprising a video signal portion and an audio signal portion, is preferably converted to a digital format and compressed by a coder 32 in accordance with an established coding algorithm. The compressed digitized program bit-stream is then segmented or divided into a plurality of discrete video source program segments 48 by an index parser 33. Each discrete compressed digital video segment 48 is preferably representative of a predetermined amount of non-compressed, full-motion video.”

Even assuming purely for argument's sake that the digital video segments 48 are deemed “media blocks” according to Claim 1, Applicant has not found anything in Ottesen et al. that teaches or suggests that the digital video segments 48 begin with a whole frame. Although Ottesen et al. specifies that the digital video segments 48 represent an amount of non-compressed, full motion video, Ottesen et al. is not understood to teach or suggest aligning such segments 48 with frames of video. Accordingly, Applicant understands the segments 48 to be associated with an amount of time of video, and not beginning all segments 48 with a whole video frame, whether full or delta, as required by independent Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Ottesen et al. and respectfully requests withdrawal of the corresponding Section 102(b) rejection. Additionally, Applicant has not found anything in DuLac that would teach or suggest such a feature, assuming it would be proper to even combine DuLac with Ottesen et al.

Independent Claims 9, 16, and 17 include the same feature of each media block beginning with a whole frame, as discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 9, 16, and 17 are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent Claims 73 and 74 pertain to accessing a text media block comprising close caption data and meta data, respectively. Support for independent Claim 73 can be found in the specification at least at page 18, line 5 to page 19, line 3, and page 20, line 6 to page 21, line 10. Support for independent Claim 74 can be found in the specification at least at page 26, line 12 to page 29, line 3. Although Ottesen et al. mention that full motion video may include subtitle or hearing-impaired information at Col. 8, lines 4-8, Applicant has not found any disclosure in Ottesen et al. or DuLac that teaches or suggests accessing a text media block comprising close caption data to determine if one or more media blocks fulfill a request, where the media block comprises data representing a consecutive number of digital frames and a corresponding audio component, as recited in Claim 73. Further, Applicant has not found any disclosure in Ottesen et al. or DuLac that teaches or suggests accessing meta data as recited in Claim 74. Accordingly, these claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over Ottesen et al, DuLac, and any proper combination of the two.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 is similar to original Claim 16, except that it applies to a digital media signal, as does original Claim 9. Support for new Claims 18-23 can be found in the specification

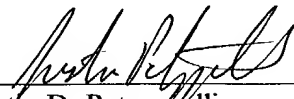
at least at page 18, line 5 to page 19, line 3, and page 20, line 6 to page 21, line 10. Support for new Claims 24-31 can be found in the specification at least at page 21, line 17 to page 22, line 4. Support for Claims 32-41 can be found in the specification at least at page 26, line 12 to page 29, line 3. Support for Claims 42-45 can be found in the specification at least at page 17, line 18 to page 18, line 4. Support for Claim 46 can be found in the specification at least at page 34, lines 1-19, where the encoding types listed in Claim 46 are respectfully submitted to have been known in the art. Support for Claims 47 and 48 can be found in the specification at least at page 12, line 13 to page 13, line 6. Support for Claims 49-62 can be found in the specification at least at page 13, line 15 to page 14, line 16; page 15, lines 8-20; page 19, line 13 to page 20, line 2; and page 23, lines 9-13. Support for Claims 62-68 can be found in the specification at least at page 29, lines 3-7, and page 30, lines 8-14. Support for claims 69 and 70 can be found in the specification at least at page 12, lines 11-23; page 13, lines 7-14; and page 15, line 21 to page 16, line 14, which is described with reference to FIG. 1. Support for Claims 71 and 72 can be found in the specification at least at page 17, lines 14-17.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

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All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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